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Dear Mr. Minister:

I have studied with care your letter of September 26.

I, too, was gratified with the results of our recent meeting in Washington.

It is indeed regrettable that speculative stories in the press and inaccurately reported remarks of officials have conveyed the impression that the West is prepared to surrender vital positions. It is, of course, unnecessary for me to tell you that there is no truth in this whatsoever as far as the United States is concerned, or to reaffirm to you that our policy continues to aim at the restoration of German unity on the basis of the right of self-determination.

With regard to your suggestion concerning a clarifying statement from the United States Government, I wish to submit the following considerations to you.

First of all, I do not believe we could be more categorical than General Clay was when he announced: "We believe in and support the reunification of Germany. There has been no change in US policy, and none was announced by any US spokesman in Berlin."

The Soviet Government should certainly be under no illusions concerning United States policy. As you know, I was very forthright with Mr. Gromyko on this subject.

We tried to calm speculation by means of the President's speech to the United Nations, which you were kind enough to welcome publicly. The President, as you know, referred to a possible plebiscite and repeatedly stressed self-determination, even applying it to the Communist empire in Eastern Europe, a point which you brought up at our meetings both in Paris and here.

However, I

His Excellency

Dr. Heinrich von Brentano,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of

The Federal Republic of Germany.

Revised by RNR

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However, I think it would be somewhat misleading at this point to imply in a public statement that there was real hope for achievement of reunification in the near future, however much this remains an object of policy.

It therefore seems to us that in the crisis situation we face, it would be similarly misleading to lay stress on the feasibility of reunification. This is largely a question of emphasis and of not arousing false expectations.

I hope you will find yourself in agreement with these considerations. As you know, Ambassador Greve and I are engaged in discussions in an effort to clarify a number of points which have arisen out of my recent talks with Gromyko. We have reached a stage where a frank exchange of views should be useful, and your Ambassador will be reporting to you on our conversations as they develop.

With highest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dean Rusk

Dean Rusk

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